

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7816
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07217

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ETEL, GW
SUBJECT: RFE/RL: HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) BONN 2925; (B) STATE 74353

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE
USG HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION APPLICATION TO THE
CHANCELLERY.
2. THE FOREIGN OFFICE (BAUCH) INFORMED US ON APRIL 18
THAT GENSCHER HAD SIGNED OFF ON A MEMO FROM FOREIGN
OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL TO CHANCELLERY STATE
SECRETARY SCHUELER RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE FULL
HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST AND OF THE NEW
LICENSE REFLECTING THE AMALGAMATION OF RFE/RL.
3. IN REPLY TO OUR QUERY, BAUCH SAID THE RECOMMENDATION
DID NOT SUGGEST ANY LINKAGE TO 209 KHZ NOR DID THE
FOREIGN OFFICE ADVOCATE A QUID PRO QUO ON THIS ISSUE.
AT THE SAME TIME, BAUCH NOTED THAT USG AGREEMENT TO
GRANT THE FRG FULL-TIME USAGE OF THE 209 KHZ FREQUENCY
WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE CHANCELLOR TO REACH A
POSITIVE DECISION ON HOLZKIRCHEN. IN REPLY, WE NOTED
THAT THE US HAD POINTED OUT DURING THE MARCH 21
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DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT PROMPT APPROVAL OF
HOLZKIRCHEN MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON 209 KHZ. THE FRG DELEGATION HAD UNDER-
TAKEN TO STUDY THIS POSSIBILITY AND ADVISE US OF ITS
VIEWS. CONCLUDING, WE SAID THE BALL WAS CLEARLY IN
THE FRG'S COURT. BAUCH AGREED.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US HOW THE FOREIGN OFFICE PLANS TO PROCEED ON 209 KHZ. IT MAY BE THAT THEY WILL AWAIT THE CHANCELLOR'S DECISION AND, SHOULD IT BE POSITIVE, EXPECT THE USG TO AGREE TO FRG USAGE OF 209 KHZ. WE DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION FROM BAUCH THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S DECISION WILL BE PREDICATED ON US ACTION ON 209 KHZ.

5. WE REMAIN RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC THAT SCHMIDT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF GENSCHER'S SUPPORT FOR IT, WILL EVENTUALLY APPROVE THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST. THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF TENSION IN US-FRG RELATIONS, AND SCHMIDT'S EVIDENT DESIRE NOT TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION, SHOULD ALSO BE A STIMULUS TOWARD APPROVAL.

WE REGARD IT AS ENCOURAGING THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ACTED ON THE APPLICATION PRIOR TO THE BREZHNEV VISIT. SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, MAY BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL WAIT UNTIL THE VISIT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED BEFORE INFORMING US OF A DECISION. IF HE OPTS TO POSTPONE HIS DECISION AND, IF AS SEEMS CERTAIN, BREZHNEV RAISES THE RADIOS DURING HIS VISIT, THE DECISION MAY NOT BE COMMUNICATED TO US UNTIL A REASONABLE TIME HAS ELAPSED.

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